

*The Negro Needs*  
**E D U C A T I O N**

Vol. I

MAY, 1935

No. 2

**SPECIAL ARTICLES**

**EDITORIALS**

**IS THE AMERICAN NEGRO DOOMED  
TO ABSORPTION?** *by Leslie Best*

**MRS. GROAN'S ACE IN THE HOLE**  
*A Short Story by Albert Dugan*

**THIS DO I FEEL  
THE FLY AND THE SPIDER** } *Poems*  
*By H. S. McFarland*

**JOHN DOE SAYS**

Published by

**NEGRO NEEDS SOCIETY**

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# EDUCATION

*is the*

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• • •

AS AN AID TO ITS ATTAINMENT

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*to read*

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May 1935

# EDUCATION

*A Journal of Reputation*

*Published Monthly by*

NEGRO NEEDS SOCIETY

3142—104th Street, Corona, L. I., N. Y.

Tel. NEWtown 9-5435

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## PLATFORM

- A 1 *The education of our people.*
- 2 *The advertisement of the virtues rather than the vices of our people.*
- B 1 *In view of the fact that discrimination hinders rather than aids the progress of a nation, the urgent need for employment of our people in more varied fields than now exists, is obvious.*
- 2 *In view of the rapid progress of our people since emancipation, inherent ability and competence as a part of their make-up cannot be justly denied. Consequently encouragement and promotion of Negro initiative and businesses on a larger scale.*
- C *Whereas housing and housing conditions are deplorable and whereas unscrupulous landlords, taking advantage of the congestion which now exists in Harlem, have resorted to the exploitation of our people in the community, a peaceful, intelligent solution is advocated.*
- D *Proper representation of our people in State and National legislatures.*

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## EDITORIALS

### CLEARING THE GROUNDS FOR OUR PROGRAMME

Within the month we have been deluged with comments ranging from the enthusiastic "marvelous project," "that's what the Negro needs—Education" to the tempestuous resentment "an insult to the Negro—he isn't the only one to be reminded of the need for education." We wish to express our thanks for these honest and well intentioned remarks. We sincerely wish we could please everybody, but already are conscious of the impossibility. However, we shall try to do our best. And in trying to do our best we believe that one of the first things that we should do should be the clearing of the grounds preparatory to sowing our seeds (our programme).

That the public may know us as we are, we declare that: we are tied to no political party, person or group of persons; we shall campaign for or against no political party, person or group of persons except when and where the interests or welfare of our people are involved: we are dedicated to instruct our

people in what we believe to be the most intelligent, the most cultured and the most diplomatic courses in the attainment of self-respect among civilized men; we believe that the evolution of civilization has actually produced a most lofty system of workable government for the benefit of mankind (or for those who are wide awake) who, it must be borne in mind, are mortals and not angels as opposed to the equally most lofty system of unworkable government which cannot benefit posterity, men being men and not angels—hence the real against the ethereal as long as the nature of mankind remains unchanged—and so propose to teach our people; while we are not blinded to the fact that discrimination and segregation do exist, we are not prepared to advocate as a remedy the doctrine of the persecution of our people, not believing that to be so—on the contrary, we are prepared to instill into them the principle of self-respect, the potentialities attendant upon education and organized citizenship; we reserve the right to differ with our friends and still maintain a cordial and friendly relationship.

## EDITORIALS, (continued)

**"THE NEGRO ISN'T THE ONLY ONE TO BE REMINDED OF THE NEED FOR EDUCATION"**

New York City, according to the last census, has a population of 6,930,416 of which 327,706 are Negroes.

Mr. Stanley Walker, writing in the July, 1933 issue of *VANITY FAIR*, said: "In Harlem, living in street upon street of old tenements, are the soas and grandsons of Negroes who once worked the Southern cotton patches or cut cane in the West Indies. They are smart people; indeed, the illiteracy rate among New York Negroes is only 2.1 per cent, while the rate for the whole city's population is 4.5 per cent. The New York Negro, for all his suffering and economic distress, ranks among the most literate group."

We are tickled pink to know that it is a fact that we rank among the most literate group in New York City. (Couple o' cheers, boys; couple o' cheers!) But, wait a minute—in bringing that bit of information to the fore and cheering it beside, we have played havoc with ourselves. For here is a gentleman who says we have directly insulted the Negro in naming our magazine *EDUCATION*: that there are other groups who need the reminder more than we do. And offering Mr. Walker's testimony to bear out the truth of the gentleman's contention is, indeed, we are inclined to think impulsively, stupid manoeuvring. But reflective thought and careful cogitation compel this rebounder: Ranking among the most literate group of the city, on the basis of literacy shouldn't we be receiving a value commensurate to our rank which is about one-twentieth of the city's wealth? Are we? Ah! Education, in its magnitude, covers more than the ability to read and write poorly or well. Or perhaps it is this very feeling, if not knowledge, that they are a "smart people" which hampers their economic independence. The quicker the Negro or anyone for that matter realizes that a systematical gathering of general knowledge and an intelligent expenditure of the same is education and that such is the first step toward eco-

nomie and personal freedom, the quicker he'll be recognized as a *smart person*.

**A PAMPHLET OR A MAGAZINE?**

Because so many persons have commented on the pamphlet-like appearance of *EDUCATION*, we are obliged to say a word or two by way of explanation. In the last decade the number of periodicals in Harlem alone that have met a premature death is astonishing. An investigation showed that most of them expired because of the unscientific expenditure of their resources before they were well known, depending entirely upon subscriptions, advertisements and their good fortune. When these failed to appear in proportion to their needs, they collapsed. The publishers of this journal are not prepared to have such a disaster overtake and strangle their brain-child if they can help it. Thus with a limited supply of cash for resources, a twelve month's issue of *EDUCATION* at its present size and thickness is assured with no external aid at all. Of course, the magazine will develop in proportion to the support it receives from the public.

**HOUSING RECEIVE ATTENTION**

The people of Harlem are the ones to be fundamentally concerned about the future of that locality. It is their home. After all, the rest of the city may be interested, but who lives among the slums and pays West End Avenue rental by comparison? No preaching on the part of preachers, no literature on the part of writers, no ravings on the part of soapbox orators, will convert Harlem into a paradise of undreamed-of bliss. But intelligent co-operation on the part of residents with all who are working for the betterment of the community, will make Harlem an enviable "spot" in the city. Already Negro Needs Society is selecting a group of prominent residents to operate as a committee to investigate housing and housing conditions. Later, individual committees will be assigned to each problem in our platform and the public may rest assured that we shall not relax until each and every item produces adequate results.



## Is the American Negro Doomed to Absorbition?

By LENIE BEST

In 1865 there was about one "colored" person to every ten full-blooded Negro in the United States. Today the average is about six to ten. Those who are working for the preservation of the color of the black man will be sorely alarmed, while the "social climbers" will be greatly pleased at this bit of news; for the preservationists may construe this statement to mean the eventual disappearance of the colored race from American life and the "climbers" may begin to have dreams for their grand or great grand children in a white society.

In a recent study of the problem two interesting topics for discussion have been adduced; yet whichever way they are argued and whatever their weaknesses, germs of facts, like a nucleus surrounded by protoplasm, bear testimony of some truth.

The first topic for discussion is: that while the black man is anxious to shed his natural color, he has no desire to be white; that in addition to this improvement (?) he demands also an improvement in education, in economic conditions, in business rather than in social equality and a decent and fit place in which to live and rear his children; the other topic is: that while the Negro has been "brushing up" physically and mentally he has seemed unable to rid himself of a slavery-time inferiority complex which is deep seated and almost unshakable.

Let us see what the first topic is all about.

As borne out in the increase of lighter shades of skin through the past seventy years of development of the Negro, one would conclude, bearing in mind that a very small percentage of that number is the result of mixed marriages, that the black man does want to shed his ebony coat and as for the additional improvements listed above, there is absolutely no doubt. So that's that—short and snappy work. But the "in-

feriority complex" business cannot be disposed of so easily, for a disquieting percentage of our own people firmly believes that the white man is superior. However, knowing the cause of a disease, the cure is comparatively easy. As a captain is master of his ship, so the mind is obviously the master of the body. And that belief is amply supported by several scientific experiments—experiments which have grown and expanded within the preceding and present generation that they have reached the border of tangible truth—if such a term is in order. Considering, then, that the mind plays an important and major part in the activities of the individual, the conclusion is that the mind of the Negro as related to an inferiority complex, is unduly contaminated. For the benefit of those suffering thus, we quote from John Langdon-Davies's "New Age of Faith:"

"The best proof that the Negro is inferior to a white man would be if his structure of his brain proved to be simpler and less evolved: are there any anatomical differences between the Negro's brain and the white man's?

"Such differences of a slight nature have been found but as Boas sums up the results: "There is however no proof whatever that these differences signify any appreciable degree of inferiority of the Negro . . ."

"Science can find no evidence whatever that one race is inherently less intelligent than another."

(Mr. Langdon-Davies is one of England's most noted scientists.)

Contamination of the mind, then, is the reason for the Negro's occupancy of the orphan's chair in the American home. Remove that and the Negro is a gentleman by every standard of civilization. Any race boasting 25,034 Clergymen, 2,146 College Presidents and Professors, 54,439 School teachers, 10,583 Musicians, 1,746 Dentists, 1,230

Continued on Page 8

## Mrs. Groan's Ace in the Hole

(A Short Story)

By ALBERT DUGAN

Jimmie said nothing as he got up from the breakfast table, but he wiped his mouth with his sleeve and left the house, his widowed mother and five smaller brothers and sisters still eating the last meal that was in the kitchen. As a newsboy he knew that he would sell enough papers to insure the evening's supper. It was no problem, for he had done that more than once before. But Jimmie was troubled. Most boys around his age—eighteen—would be light-hearted and care-free, enjoying the balmy weather of the spring season just beginning or seeking to be honored by the girl of his choice. None of these held any interest for Jimmie.

As he hastened along Main Street that morning he mumbled something that was hardly audible to himself. And such mumblings were often interpreted by his friends who knew him well to have a bad omen.

"Whenever Jimmie come hustlin' down Main Street a-talkin' to himself," Fred Barrow, Jimmie's closest friend, would say, "look out, the boss is after him."

And really, Jimmie's boss was after him. He had told the newsie to be in his office at 9 o'clock that morning. That, from experience, meant a "bawlin' out." But Jimmie knew before hand that he was fired, for the boss had told him on his last appearance "on the carpet" that he would have no job if ever he showed up again for the same offense.

Still hastening along Main Street, the troubled soul of Jimmie would not permit him to be quiet. He talked to himself, he bit his lips, he wiped his mouth with both his sleeves, he took off his ragged and dirty cap and put it on his head again and again. At last he burst into tears and said:

"That cranky old woman is causing me to lose my job."

Glancing at the town clock that stood almost on the pinnacle of the county's

only public building, Jimmy noticed that he had five minutes more.

"I gotta hurry more than I am hurryin'," he continued and quickened his steps. "If that old lady wasn't in my district, I wouldn't be losin' my job." The boy attempted to stop, to call it a day and to turn on back home, but some unseen guardian spurred him on. "Maybe if I explain, the boss may give me another chance," he consoled himself.

The "old lady" that Jimmie referred to, was Mrs. Bertha Groan, the town clerk. Mrs. Groan was well on in years, strict and very particular. She wanted the daily paper delivered at her door every morning at 6 A.M. That was an impossibility, for the sheriff who lived ten blocks away wanted his paper delivered at the same hour. Jimmie had explained the situation to his boss but the only consolation he received was: "If you can't do it, someone else will." The boy had tried his very best to escape the dilemma to no avail. On a couple of occasions he had lost his temper and had "talked back" to Mrs. Groan who promptly reported him to his employer. It had happened again and he was afraid to face the consequence. There was his mother and his brothers and sisters! He was their sole support. He knew no other job but to distribute and sell papers and the "Forum" was the only daily, in fact, the only newspaper in the whole town.

It was one minute to nine when Jimmie entered Mr. Porter's office. He hesitated for awhile but the editor of the "Forum," Mr. Edward Porter, and the newsie's boss, signalled him to come forward.

"Jimmie," said the gentleman dr-  
"Mrs. Groan was in my office yesterday. She spoke of you to me. In accordance with her wishes I am going to make a change as much as I regret it. But it cannot be helped."

Jimmie burst into tears. The editor continued:

Continued on Page 8



## JOHN DOE

Says

Do not attract the attention of others.  
If you are big enough and worthy  
enough, they'll see you.

Do not try to fish with more than one  
line. You may get many nibbles on all  
the lines but may never be at the right  
spot to jerk the right line at the right  
time. You are almost sure to catch a  
fish with one line.

Do not blame others for your misfor-  
tunes; most of the time you are to be  
blamed.

Do not aspire to build a mansion  
when you see your relatives can build  
nothing but huts. Try to make your hut  
the best.

Do not sit down on a chair with no  
back if you are tired. You may fall  
asleep.

And

according to Charlotte Bronte  
Life, believe, is not a dream

So dark as sages say;

Oft a little morning rain

Foretells a pleasant day.

Sometimes there are clouds of gloom.

But these are transient all;

If the flowers will make the roses bloom.

Oh, why lament its fall?

Rapidly, merrily,

Life's sunny hours flit by.

Gratefully, cheerily,

Enjoy them as they fly.

FOR THE VISITOR TO NEW YORK  
Places Of Interest

Statue of Liberty: The Statue of  
Liberty is situated at the entrance of  
New York harbor. It was designed by  
the French sculptor Auguste Bartholdi  
and presented to the United States by  
the French people. Erected in 1886, it  
is 305 feet in length and an arm span of  
16 feet.

Public Library: At an estimated cost  
of \$9,000,000, the Public Library was  
built and first opened to the public in  
1911. It is located on 5th Avenue be-  
tween 40th and 42nd Streets. Last year  
it had an average of over 11,000 visitors  
daily.

Y. M. C. A.: All over town—and  
don't forget our own 135th Street branch  
between Lenox and Seventh Avenues.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS PROTECTIVE  
ASS'N HOLDS ITS FIRST GREAT  
MASS MEETING

Of the many productions of the Har-  
lem "riot," the Civil Rights Protective  
Association, an organization formed to  
promote social justice, interracial good-  
will and harmony and to protect and  
defend the civil rights and liberties of  
the people, thru its representative, Mr.  
Charles T. Romney, who is defending  
the people before the Mayor's Investi-  
gating Committee, has held its first great  
mass meeting at Mother Zion Commu-  
nity House, 153 West 136th Street, on  
April 15th.

This body is chiefly composed of  
lawyers as its name implies. Such able  
legal talents as Counselor Gordon, Tay-  
lor, Hill and Herman C. Stoute ad-  
dressed an almost crowded house. R. T.  
Bess of the Consolidated Tenants  
League, Mr. Falconer and others gave  
impressive and graphic illustrations of  
the treatment of Negro domestics by  
their employers. Counselor Gordon  
recited an incident where an employer  
sought to arrest a colored servant girl  
for a supposed theft. The girl in turn,  
thru Mr. Gordon, brought the employer  
into court where it was proven that the  
girl's madam and not the girl was the  
thief. The employer had gone into her  
servant's pocket-book and had taken her  
money on the ground that the latter  
had first committed the theft.

Negro Needs Society and EDUCATION  
wish the Civil Rights Protective Associa-  
tion every good fortune.

## COUPLE O' LAUGHS

One of our readers said he did not  
get even a smile from our COUPLE O'  
LAUGHS column in last month's issue.

The joke's on you brother; we did not  
expect you to get even a grin—last  
month (1st. of April) was all fools'  
month.

Sammie: That hurricane sho did  
mess me up.

Tommy: What is yo' talkin' 'bout  
boy. There aint no hurricane heah in  
years.

Sammie: Ah, Tommy, the only time  
I'll ever 'scape this heah hurricane is  
when she's dead.



## THIS DO I FEEL

By H. S. McFARLAND

This do I feel when the soft winds blow,  
 When the sun doth set o'er the  
 western sea  
 And the trees and the grass and  
 the flowers sway  
 And my thoughts come home from  
 their jaunts to me:

Peace from a day of enslaving toil,  
 From a world filled full with a greed  
 for gold,  
 With the tongue and the eye and  
 the arm well aimed  
 At a prey that's never too young  
 or old;

Peace with my thoughts like the voice  
 of God,  
 Like the rain of Heaven on arid  
 sights,  
 Like the "yes" and the kiss to  
 a waiting youth,  
 Like the rest that comes after sleepless  
 nights.

Peace do I feel when the soft winds blow,  
 When the sun doth set o'er the  
 western sea  
 And the trees and the grass and the  
 flowers sway  
 And my thoughts come home like a  
 balm to me.

## THE FLY AND THE SPIDER

By H. S. McFARLAND

The dragon fly  
 He brushed his thigh  
 And asked again  
 The reason why  
 The captive should not die.

"This spider here  
 Was near my lair  
 And as you know  
 Of him we fear.

"He was asleep  
 Upon a heap  
 Of brush and twigs,

And while he slept  
 I slowly crept  
 And stunned him with  
 A blow adept.

"An enemy  
 'Tis plain to see,  
 So widely known  
 That poetry  
 Agrees with me.

"Great men have sung  
 With straining lung  
 And aching heart  
 The way he hung  
 His shining web  
 To tempt me and my young.

"So let us feast  
 On this dread beast  
 And cry 'Amen',  
 To say the least."

"Not so, not so—  
 Please let him go  
 O, dragon fly.  
 Life is sweet  
 And so is meat  
 But wouldst thou eat  
 Thy enemy's feet?"

"The greater treat  
 The more the feet  
 My brother fly—  
 But how so plea  
 For such as he?"

"Let them who would  
 The evil do,  
 Continue so to do;  
 Let them who would impoverish me  
 Unto their vows be true . . .  
 Would e'er I could  
 Repay each evil deed with good."



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 says; plays; poems, etc. Obscure talent  
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 debut. Grasp the opportunity. "The  
 next time" may be too late.

**Mrs. GROAN'S ACE IN THE HOLE**

Continued from Page 5

"Take this package to Mrs. Groan's office," at the same time handing the boy a small parcel. The newsboy started to say something, but his tears drowned the utterance.

In a mood well nigh to that of a man about to commit a murder, Jimmie Pane left his employer's office. Approaching the city clerk's desk about half an hour afterwards, the boy, not even removing his cap from his head, first stared at the public official, then handed her the parcel. If he had opened his mouth, things would have been different. But the same spirit that spurred him on Main Street must have stayed his tongue. Mrs. Groan took the package. Apparently not noticing Jimmie's distress, the lady smiled at the lad, saying:

"Now Jimmie, I presume Mr. Porter has told you everything there is to be said, so it will not be necessary for a repetition. Your salary alone is left to be arranged. You were getting ten dollars a week at Mr. Porter's; I shall start you at fifteen. How's that?"

Caught in a paroxysm of emotions, Jimmy Pane was visibly bewildered and made no effort to conceal his amazement. It was fully three minutes before he recovered enough to realize what had happened. Mrs. Groan, understanding the situation thoroughly, enjoyed herself throughout the whole performance.

At last Jimmie mumbled, more to himself than to his benefactor:

"Thank you very much, Miss Groan."

"You are very welcome, Jimmie," returned the lady. Then, "but let this be the last time that you come into my office with your cap on your head."

**IS THE AMERICAN NEGRO DOOMED TO ABSORPTION?**

Continued from Page 4

Judges and Lawyers, 3,895 Doctors and 5,728 Nurses out of a total population of 11,891,143 persons, should behold with disdain the prospect of absorption. The American Negro does. Granted the improvement he requires, removal from his mind the obnoxious depravity of inferiority complex and in its stead instill the duty of responsible citizenship and absorption will be only a dream.

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Finger Waving

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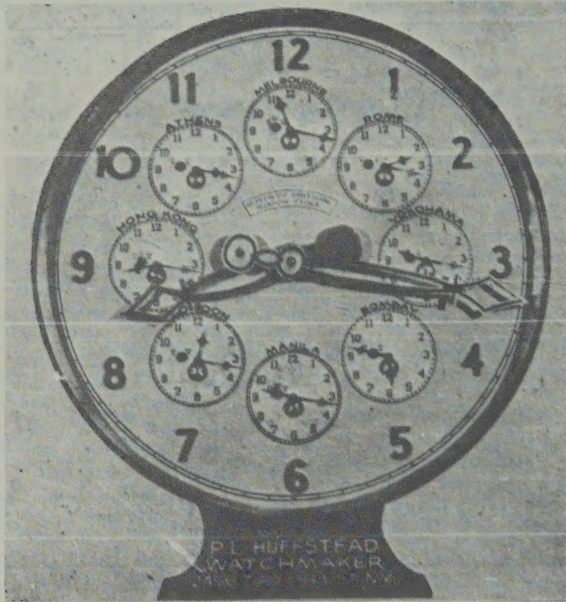
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**New York, N. Y.**



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